**WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH 2021 AT 7:00PM VIA ZOOM**

**Present**: Cllr Ivor French (Chairman)

Cllr David Chenery Cllr Robin Cooke

Cllr John Horsnell Cllr Sonya Exton

Cllr Anne Westover Cllr Alan Biddle

Cllr Dick Jenkinson

**In attendance:** Joanne Peters, Parish Clerk, Arthur Stansfield, Sizewell C Working Group & Fiona Judge, Sizewell C Working Group. There were 15 members of the public present.

The Chairman gave introductions and provided some housekeeping rules and confirmed this meeting would be recorded by the Parish Clerk.

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Sanders, Nobbs and Hawes.

1. **To receive councillors Declarations of Interest (these can also be declared during the**

**meeting)**

There were none.

**2.1 – To consider any dispensations received**

There were none.

The Chairman reported the purpose of this meeting was to inform Parish Councillors and

members of the public of the traffic mitigation options received from WSP for Wickham

Market. Cllr Jenkinson confirmed the proposals to be shown were carried out by LDA

Consultants. The Chairman confirmed there would not be any formal votes taken at this

meeting. The Chairman ***closed the meeting*** to allow members of the public to comment.

Cllr Exton advised she would have to leave this meeting at 7:30pm due to a prior

engagement but confirmed she would re-join as soon as she could.

1. **Traffic & Parking Working Group to present draft WSP traffic mitigation option proposals for Wickham Market**

Cllr Jenkinson advised the aim of this briefing was to provide information on the latest version of the traffic mitigation proposals received from EDF via WSP/LDA Consultants for Wickham Market so the Council could decide if they were mature enough to take forward to a public consultation. He confirmed no formal vote would be held on approval or non-approval of the proposals as it was felt more input would be required before a final scheme could be arrived at. Cllr Jenkinson advised before a public consultation could be held these proposals would have to pass a safety audit which would be carried out by Suffolk County Highways and this had not yet been completed.

Cllr Jenkinson reported this scheme had not been plucked out of thin air. Many people had put in many hours to arrive at where we are today. Before I show you the proposals I want to tell you how we have arrived at where we are today: Page 66

1. Parish Plan and Neighbourhood Plan responses from residents have showed great

concern regarding speeding traffic and safety.

1. There are two ways of slowing traffic down:

20mph speed limit with the mandatory repeater signs.

Create a 20mph zone where road infrastructure slows the traffic down.

With the first method there is no guarantee that the traffic will obey the signs and the police do not have the capacity to enforce the speed limit. The second method does achieve the aim, but it creates congestion, and some roadside parking will be lost.

1. T&P WG Traffic and Parking paper 2014 gave some suggested changes to road

infrastructure but lacked data.

1. T&P WG set about collecting data and prepared a report not approved by PC for

release. The report was written with the input of SCC Highways.

1. EDF committed to doing Public Realm improvements in Wickham Market in line

with the emerging Neighbourhood Plan in their Stage 4 DCO submission.

1. SWG took work done to date and compiled a list of issues that needed to be addressed

and passed these to EDF.

1. T&P WG and SWG briefed EDF’s Traffic Consultants (WSP/LDA) on site.
2. List of potential areas to be considered for improvement works added into

Neighbourhood Plan.

1. Nine meetings have taken place where the WSP/LDA scheme has been through

several iterations of amendments. These meetings have been attended by EDF, WSP,

LDA Design, SCC Highways, ESC, WM T&P WG, WM SWG and WMPC.

1. The latest WSP/LDA iteration dated 19th March 2021 were sent to us on 22nd March

2021 at 8.42 in advance of the meeting on the same day. It is this iteration that I will be

briefing on.

Cllr Jenkinson shared his screen to show the traffic mitigation proposals:-

He explained he would firstly show the proposals and details of the palette. Cllr

Jenkinson displayed examples of Village Gateways that could be erected on Border

Cot Lane coming from the North of Rackhams Bridge and from the South entrance to

the village from Ufford. He then shared details of the Central Zone proposals which

included road narrowing and infrastructure.

He provided details regarding the proposed pedestrian crossings to be erected and

explained there were two differing types and materials include granite setts with timber

bollards on build outs.

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He confirmed the pedestrian crossings would not be signalled crossings and these would

be erected on Dallinghoo Rd and at various locations within the High St.

Drawing 301 – South on B1438 Village Gateway design unacceptable but might be in the

right position given the new development proposed. Alternative suggestions of

localised narrowing and reduced speed were suggested.

Drawing 302 – Proposed hedge across frontage to Wickham Place houses might be very

welcome, and should have been planted when development took place by Hopkins

Homes. The build outs might slow traffic and help with people crossing the road.

Cllr Westover advised depending on what is agreed in this location we will need to tie this

in with Hopkins Homes development proposals and the Section 38/106 agreements.

Drawing 303 – Approaching the Co-Op. Road narrowing, crossing and single track

(without priority) - Is the width of the road such that two vehicles might try to squeeze

past each other? Concerns were raised regarding this drawing. It was noted the

entrances to the Co-Op and Village Hall were not included within the proposals with

regard to improved pedestrian safety.

Drawing 304 – Not quite sure how much footway is being widened around the War

Memorial, it looks as though it could be widened all round?

Drawing 305 – Dallinghoo Road – Purposing designed crossing, cobbled area and low

kerb. No concerns raised.

Drawing 306 – High Street entering the hill by Revetts. Fiona Judge made enquires

regarding the proposed brown surface opposite Revetts and asked what material it was?

Cllr Jenkinson confirmed the darker brown was a resin bound aggregate in colour

Butterscotch.

A member of the public asked would the proposals exacerbate storm water flow down

Snowden Hill and advised this problem could get worse because of these proposals due

to lack of storm water drains. Cllr Jenkinson confirmed the Sizewell C working group

had raised this matter with EDF. It was agreed drainage would need to be taken into

consideration and it was hoped this could be improved.

Access point at 111a near The George Pub is actually a driveway.

Loss of overnight parking for residents along east side of this road will increase pressure

on parking in Yew Tree Rise.

Drawing 307 – North of Yew Tree Rise. Footpath exit with removed barrier and build

out/crossing. This could be dangerous without barrier.

Drawing 308 – Crossing point outside No 136 maybe of concern to local resident and loss

of parking. Wider pavement south of Maple House.

A member of the public advised if the pavement is widened in this location there would

be further loss of parking overnight and asked where these residents were supposed to

park? Page 68

Drawing 309 – To the west of Border Cot Lane junction. Parking Boxes/Stop post.

Parking pushed to other side of the road. Cllr Westover advised there were pinch points

along the whole stretch of road here. She raised concerns regarding loss of parking and

suggested that speed reduction needed to be implemented.

Build out in front of 190 should be moved to 186. Build outs take away parking spaces,

crossing might be dangerous so close to the junction. Serious concerns were raised

regarding the number of parking spaces being lost due to the scheme. Numbers from

LDA do not seem to match local knowledge on numbers.

A member of the public felt the pedestrian crossing at this location was dangerous and

suggested this crossing should be removed from the scheme.

A member of the public made a particularly good point about loss of overnight parking

alongside the east side of the road south of 111a not 106. This needs to be taken into

consideration. This will also have increased pressure parking at Yew Tree Rise.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding pulling out of her drive and around

parking (moved to across the road). Log jams are frequent occurrence. The member of

the public confirmed she had to reverse in or out of her drive as there is no turning.

A member of the public expressed concern and asked why independent surveys had not

been carried out. She also raised concerns regarding how the proposals were being

presented and said she felt they were unclear. She also raised concerns regarding the

proposed pedestrian crossings within this area.

Drawing 310 – There is a driveway between 202A/B and 202C/D, currently shown as a

house. The paving type 1 shown opposite must not extend into the driveway of 161. The

bus stop on the southern side of the road to the west of Spring Lane has been omitted.

Shading on High St at NE part of drawing was not understood.

Bus Stop required amendments. Pavement widened.

Pleased that trees have been removed but the BT kiosk (with Defib needs to be indicated).

Crossing points here will result in loss of parking provision.

Parking box not safe to cross the road and therefore a build out and pedestrian crossing

has been included.

A member of the public raised concerns that the build outs will cause a loss of parking

spaces within this location.

Arthur Stansfield raised concerns about issues on the High Street and advised the

proposed build out in this location was dangerous to those turning out of The Drift

towards Hasnips and advised he did not feel the crossing here would be of any benefit.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the footpath outside 224 High St and

agreed the pedestrian crossing would not be used especially as they are not controlled

zebra crossings. It was felt the crossings would cause confusion to pedestrians.

Drawing 311 – Build out design with bollards is too wide thus reducing the available

parking. Pavements widened and loss of parking of concern. Cllr Jenkinson advised he

felt in this location the pedestrian crossing was required. Page 69

Cllr Jenkinson confirmed loss of parking in all areas should be as small as possible.

Drawing 312 – White line to be removed.

Drawing 313 – Gateway design unacceptable but might in an acceptable position. Speed

reduction required here. Entrance to Rackhams amended.

Drawing 314 – No issues were raised but whether the build outs slow traffic down was

questionable, the problem is they will require stopping and starting and impede the flows.

Drawing 315 – No buildout showing at the entry to the 30mph limit?

Drawing 316 – Border Cot Lane Village Gateway design unacceptable and in the wrong

position.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Jenkinson for presenting these proposals. He asked Cllr

Chenery how the safety audit would be carried out and advised not all these proposals

may pass this. Cllr Chenery provided details regarding the safety audit and confirmed

these are carried out independently to the designers and reported they work to strict

codes and accept liability for their recommendations.

Cllr Jenkinson advised when the Sizewell C Working Group/EDF reach the public

consultation stage it was preferred if the Parish Council and local residents were positive

in respect of these proposals but he was not sure if this could be possible.

1. **Question & Answer Session including Open Public Session:–**

***Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on***

***this agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman.***

***Members of the public whilst welcome to attend, may not take part in the meeting itself***

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the increasing number of HGV’s and

speeding traffic on the High St and advised she felt action needed to be taken now to

prevent a serious accident occurring. Cllr Jenkinson confirmed EDF would be

monitoring HGV’s to ensure they did not come through the village.

Concerns were raised regarding the design of the Village Gateways and it was generally

felt these were not appropriate. It was suggested that possibly priority signage should be

included and the gateways should also be lit.

Cllr Westover assured the members of the public that the Sizewell C Working Group had

raised concerns regarding the proposed build outs to EDF and were aware of the concerns

raised.

A member of the public asked if no HGVs were allowed to travel on local roads what

would happen if there was an accident on the bypass between the Wickham Market slip

roads where would the traffic go? Cllr Jenkinson advised EDF had assured the Sizewell

C working group that Wickham Market would not be used as a rat run and confirmed they

had raised the matter of if the Orwell Bridge were to close with EDF and had been

assured that HGVs would not come through the village and if they did they would be

penalised for doing so.

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Cllr Westover advised there was also a traffic incident accident site at the

Southern Park & Ride site so potentially this is where HGVs would stack up. It was

agreed if an accident did occur on the bypass this could cause severe problems.

Cllr Horsnell asked what was EDF expecting as an outcome of this meeting? Cllr

Jenkinson provided clarification and confirmed if the Parish Council did not agree with

these proposals work would have to stop now but if it was felt that some of these

proposals would be of benefit to the village with some modifications then the next step

would be for the safety audit to be carried out.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding traffic coming from the West of the

county heading towards the Park & Ride site and cutting across via the B1078.

Arthur Stansfield advised he worked for a company who provided vehicle tracking and

confirmed he had made suggestions to EDF in respect of the tracking/monitoring of

vehicles via mobile phones and ANPR but to date EDF have declined to do so and insist

that signage will be adequate.

Cllr Westover confirmed the Sizewell C working group had raised issues regarding traffic

monitoring within their responses to the Government. She also confirmed she had spoken

recently at the Preliminary Meeting and read out a summary taking these concerns into

account along with lots of others. Cllr Westover advised the Parish Council now needed

to keep up the pressure on EDF throughout the examination. She raised concerns how

EDF would get these traffic mitigation proposals safety audited and out for public

consultation prior to the examination process.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding air pollution due to the amount of

increased traffic. She also raised concerns that there were no measures for cyclists taken

into consideration within these proposals.

Cllr Biddle advised he was not in favour of this proposed scheme at all. He felt the build

outs were accidents waiting to happen, the crossings were not actual zebra crossings and

were not covered by traffic law and therefore drivers would not pay attention to them and

they would not be used. Strips of road where traffic can only travel in one direction and

loss of parking would be too large and would have a great effect on the residents

concerned. He asked if there was to be appropriate signage on the A12 as this was

essential. Cllr Jenkinson confirmed signage would be used and the Sizewell C working

group would be looking at this to ensure it was robust enough. Cllr Biddle recommended

adequate clear signage must be in place along the A14 and A12. He reported in his view

what was being proposed would ruin the village.

Cllr Jenkinson reported if the Parish Council object to these proposals as a whole the

village would not get anything.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding vehicles illegally mounting the

pavement on the High St. She advised she had witnessed several near misses and this

area was an accident waiting to happen and agreed with Cllr Biddle this scheme was not

right for the village.

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Cllr Biddle left the meeting.

Cllr Jenkinson advised if the Parish Council hadn’t responded to EDF as Sizewell C

progressed the village would have had no traffic mitigations options.

Cllr Horsnell asked if some of the proposed work would be funded by Hopkins Homes.

Cllr Jenkinson confirmed this work would not be funded by Hopkins Homes and

confirmed this scheme would be down to EDF to fund. Cllr Horsnell advised he could see

that a lot of work had gone into these proposals but in his view this scheme still required a

lot of consideration and further discussion prior to it being put forward to public

consultation.

Cllr Exton confirmed a lot of work had gone into this scheme but she had concerns with

the proposals due to WSP not taking into consideration the character of the village and felt

they were more like proposals for a tourist attraction rather than a working village. She

advised going forward Wickham Market could look to apply for funding from the

Government and not rely on EDF. Cllr Exton advised this scheme if approved would

be funded by a S.106 agreement and it was not certain that all works would be carried out.

She confirmed the proposals received would have to be put out for public consultation but

she did not want to feel backed into a corner by EDF if this scheme was not the right one

for the village.

Cllr Cooke advised the Border Cot Lane junction increase in cars would not just be cars

but also white vans. Cllr Jenkinson provided clarification to which Cllr Cooke still raised

concerns and advised lorries turning into Rackhams had to mount both sides of the kerb

to get in.

Cllr Westover suggested EDF could consult on this scheme but the Parish Council should

make them aware there were serious concerns in respect of some parts and it was

important these points were raised. She advised the Parish Council should also be

supporting to continue to object to the Southern Park & Ride site. Cllr Westover reported

she had attended the A12 consultation and within this it included increasing capacity to

provide extra lanes so more traffic would be coming through.

The Chairman advised at the last meeting with EDF they hoped at the next meeting the

Parish Council could go back to them with a unified front in respect of these proposals and

this clearly was not the case. He suggested at the next meeting the Parish Council would

need to stand up and fight their case on behalf of the village.

Cllr Horsnell asked would the safety audit be in respect of this scheme and enquired if

there were any alternative schemes available as there were lots of doubt in respect of the

proposals presented tonight. Cllr Jenkinson reported proposals were being looked at for

Broad Rd but they were not expecting EDF to come up with an alternative scheme as a

whole and therefore the proposals could have modifications applied taking into

consideration comments made.

Cllr Jenkinson confirmed there were 2 pollution testing points sited within the village but

he was unclear of their locations.

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A member of the public raised concerns as he was unclear about the process on taking

these proposals to a public consultation. He advised also agreed with Cllr Biddle and felt

these proposals were inappropriate for the village.

The Parish Clerk confirmed at the last meeting EDF had said they would be looking for

approval that these proposals were appropriate to take forward to a public consultation.

The member of the public advised he did not feel these proposals were fit to take forward

to a public consultation as they had not taken into consideration that Wickham Market

was a Medieval village and the build outs up and down the High St along with the loss of

parking he did not feel was appropriate at all but a 20mph speed limit would be beneficial,

if approved.

***The Chairman asked permission to suspend Standing Orders to continue the meeting.***

***This was Unanimously Agreed.***

Cllr Chenery advised he had made it clear to EDF the safety audit was a key step and

should not be overlooked and in his view this should be carried out sooner rather than later

to see if the proposals even stand the test of this audit prior to going out to a public

consultation.

Arthur Stansfield advised he felt the Parish Council could push EDF to do more to

ensure that traffic does not come through the village and he felt that speed cameras could

also be installed.

Cllr Horsnell asked has a safety audit been carried out in the village prior to any works

being proposed. Cllr Chenery confirmed this had not taken place.

Fiona Judge raised concerns regarding comments made by EDF at the last meeting and

agreed it had been said by EDF that it would be beneficial if the Parish Council could be

on board with these proposals and if there were any members of the Sizewell C working

group who were not in favour of these proposals they should not be liaising with members

of the public during the public consultation period which had left her feeling quite

shocked.

Cllr Chenery advised it had also appeared like EDF were expecting SCC to be on board

with these proposals.

Cllr Westover raised concerns regarding matters relating to the last meeting in which

unfortunately she was unable to attend and advised they were entering the examination

process with so many unanswered questions hanging over them so in her view the Parish

Council should continue to get their point across about their concerns in respect of this

scheme.

A member of the public asked if she was right to understand that EDF had requested

Sizewell C working group members who were not in favour of the proposed scheme to not

engage with local residents throughout the public consultation process as in her view the

Parish Council should be representing the village and should therefore make a stand

against the proposals being put forward by EDF. Cllr Exton provided details regarding

wording included within the draft minutes of the last meeting held with EDF in respect of

this matter. Page 73

Cllr Horsnell asked had SC Highways had a chance to feedback on any of these

proposals/drawings yet? Cllr Exton confirmed that Steve Merry, SCC had agreed on

some of the proposals but his key issue was pedestrian safety.

Fiona Judge reported that Steve Merry, SCC did have concerns regarding the costs

associated with the scheme.

Cllr Westover confirmed some costings would have to be put together soon for the legal

agreements. Cllr Jenkinson advised the costings were extremely dependant on where

services run and the services had not been recorded within these proposals. He

recommended that EDF should look to implement these within the proposed scheme.

All other questions were covered within item 4. The Chairman ***reconvened the meeting***.

1. **Sizewell C SZC Working Group to provide background information on Planning**

**Inspectorate Preliminary Meetings and Public Examination process**

This item was covered by Cllr Westover within item 4.

1. **To receive an update on the Relevant Representations meeting held with EDF on 11th March 2021**

The Chairman confirmed the notes of this meeting had been circulated and were available on the Parish Council’s website.

1. **Public Consultation procedure and timescale**

Cllr Horsnell asked what would the next steps be? The Chairman suggested the Parish Council needed to be collective on the way forward. Cllr Jenkinson confirmed the Sizewell C working group would need to respond to the proposals/drawings received. He felt that modifications to the scheme were most certainly required and a safety audit needed to be carried out prior to any public consultation being carried out.

Cllr Westover suggested the contents of this meeting could be sent in a letter form to PINS/SCC/ESC.

Cllr Exton suggested the members of the public present at this meting could be asked to email any comments/concerns to the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Clerk confirmed the proposals shown would be put on the Parish Council’s website along with the draft minutes.

Cllr Exton thanked Parish Councillors and members of the public for attending the meeting and for their comments. She also thanked Cllr Jenkinson for presenting the slides at this meeting.

The Chairman thanked Parish Councillors and members of the public for their attendance and formally closed the meeting at 10:05pm

Signed:………………………………………… Dated:………………………

Cllr Ivor French, Chairperson Page 74